



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

# BRIEF SUMMARIES OF PRINCIPAL MILITARY SYSTEMS, BY THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON MILITARY TRAINING

The Commission believes the following brief popular summaries of the military systems of other leading countries may be of interest. They are, of course, based on conditions existing before the Great War.

## SWISS SYSTEM

*Compulsory universal service.*—The Swiss Constitution provides that every man is liable to perform military duty between the ages of 20 to 48. (Legal liability begins at 17, but service at 20.)

*Exemptions.*—(a) Federal officials; (b) employees of postal and telegraph service; (c) officials of hospitals and prisons; (d) police; (e) clergymen; (f) teachers.

*Divisions of service.*—The Army is divided into three classes:

Élite . . . . .	Men from 20 to 32
Landwehr . . . . .	Men from 32 to 40
Landstrum . . . . .	Men from 40 to 48

*Élite.*—At 20 the young Swiss reports for admittance to service and is examined by local commissions. Examinations are both physical and mental, the former being very severe. About 50 per cent of those reporting are rejected. If the candidate passes he is given his soldier's register in which there will be recorded his entire military history. He is also issued uniform, equipment, and rifle. These he takes home and keeps during his whole period of service, being responsible for them and their condition under heavy penalties.

The first year's course of instruction is at designated training places, and is called a recruit school. Eight hours work per day, Sundays excepted, are required. Instruction is in school of the soldier, company and battalion, target practice, care of arms, cooking and hygiene. Recruits during their first year serve—

Infantry, Engineers and Foot Artillery, 65 days.

Artillery and Garrison, 75 days.

Cavalry, 90 days.

After first year soldiers in Élite (other than Cavalry) are called out seven times, for a service lasting from 11 to 14 days.

Cavalry serve only ten years, *i.e.*, to age of 30 in the Élite; but are called out eight times for service of 11 days each.

Training periods after the recruit course are devoted chiefly to tactical maneuvers in large bodies: Division operates against division, starting at widely separated points.

At all times the training is very practical. Little attention is paid to mathematical precision in marching. Field work, with long marches in full kit, is the rule. Average march, 15 to 19 miles.

*Landwehr*.—Called out only once for service of 11 days.

*Landsturm*.—Called out only in case of war.

*School instruction*.—Every boy must attend school until 15. From 10 to 15 boy is given athletic and gymnastic exercises but no distinctive military instruction. Object is to turn out vigorous and agile men with minds impressed with ideas of duty and honor. This instruction is controlled by the cantons.

*Voluntary organizations*.—There are voluntary military organizations for boys known as "Cadet Corps." Rifle-shooting is a national sport as baseball is here. There are many rifle clubs. Some are for boys from 11 to 20. In 1914 about 13,000 boys were members of these clubs. Rifle clubs for adults are under federal control and encouragement and have a membership of over 213,000.

*Strength of army*.—Switzerland can mobilize a trained and equipped army of 220,000 soldiers in twenty-four hours. Behind this first line is a reserve of 270,000 men, of whom 70,000 are armed.

*Military tax*.—Every Swiss citizen at home or abroad between the ages of 20 and 44, who for any reason is not accepted and enrolled in the active or reserve armies, is obliged to pay a military tax. This tax is of three kinds:

1. Military poll tax, \$1.20.
2. Military property tax of .15 per cent of assessed value of property in excess of \$200.
3. Military income tax of 1.5 per cent on income.

This tax is in addition to all other taxes; the assessments are rigorously made and every penny is exacted.

#### AUSTRALIAN SYSTEM

*Compulsory universal service*.—The Australian "Defence Act" makes military training and service compulsory upon all male British subjects between the ages of 12 and 26.

*Exemptions*.—Temporary exemptions are granted to: (a) school teachers qualified as instructors of junior cadets (see *infra*); (b) members of regular army and navy; (c) residents of sparsely settled districts; (d) residents 5 miles from training places; (e) theological students; (f) those physically unfit.

Permanent disqualification exists against: (a) those convicted of crime; (b) those of bad moral character.

*Divisions of service*.

Junior Cadets, .....	Age 12 to 14
Senior Cadets, .....	Age 14 to 18
Citizen Forces, .....	Age 18 to 26

*Junior cadets.*—Education is compulsory up to 14 years in most of the Australian states and shortly will become so in all of them. Three-fourths of those liable to junior cadet training are in the State Schools and the rest in private schools. Consequently the schools supply this training with supervision from the military authorities.

The course covers 120 hours per annum and consists of: (a) at least fifteen minutes of general physical training; (b) infantry squad drill; (c) any two of the following: (1) miniature rifle shooting; (2) swimming; (3) running games; (4) first aid.

No uniform is required or allowed. The object of this training is simply to improve the physique of the boys, and medical examination is intended only to exclude those who would be injured by the work. In 1913, 55,850 junior cadets were in training.

*Senior cadets.*—All boys must be registered in January of the year in which they become 14. In July of that year, after a rigid medical examination at which about 10 per cent are rejected, they receive uniforms, "record books," and arms (all of which they use only when on duty), and are told off to companies. They are now a part of the army and liable to any service required. For the convenience of schools having 60 senior cadets or over and a qualified instructor, the organization of special units at such schools is permitted.

The course covers 4 whole days, 12 half-days and 24 night drills annually. At the end of each year a military board examines each cadet and passes him as "effective" or requires an extra year's service if he is "non-effective." In 1911 there were 92 battalions of senior cadets, with 922 companies and 89,184 officers and cadets. (N.B. The "battalion," as applied to senior cadets, is a geographical and not a numerical division.)

*Citizen forces.*—At 18 years all senior cadets receive a severe medical examination for the citizen forces, at which over 30 per cent are generally rejected. Each soldier is armed exactly as in the British army.

The course covers 7 years, in each of which there must be 16 full days' service (8 of which must be in camps of continuous training) and 1 year wherein attendance is required only at registration or muster parade. (N.B. Artillerymen and engineers must serve 25 days annually for the first 7 years, 17 of which days must be spent in camp.)

All promotion is by competitive examination based on merit and is from the ranks. In 1913 the citizen forces were 45,000 men and ultimately will number 152,000. Discipline is carried out by fines and no defaulter can ever obtain government employment.

*Reserves.*—There is no reserve force, but on completing the twenty-sixth year, the men are expected to join the rifle clubs, which receive government encouragement.

*Regular army force.*—The regular army force in 1911 consisted of 2,003 officers and men.

## FRENCH SYSTEM

*Compulsory universal service.*—All men are compelled to serve 3 years in active military service. Although Frenchmen need spend only 3 years in barracks they are all subject to service from the age of 20 to the age of 48—thus remaining at the disposal of the military authorities for twenty-eight years. Only the infirm are excused.

*The active army.*—The active army is composed of soldiers accomplishing their three years of compulsory service.

Every year, from the first to the fifteenth of January, census tables are drawn up by the municipalities. On these tables are inscribed the names of all those young men who have attained the age of 20 during the year, and who are domiciled in the commune. These young men are then summoned to appear, in the simplest clothing, before a special council, which is known as the council of revision, and which meets at the chief town in the district; it is presided over by the prefect, and comprises a general, a councillor-general, an arrondissement councillor, and a councillor of the prefecture. A military surgeon examines the young men, and the council decides whether they are fit for service or whether they should be “adjourned.” All those incorporated are afterwards inscribed on a special register—when they receive a military *livret*, or memorandum book, which they must produce whenever required.

*Distribution of recruits.*—Recruits may be drafted to any garrison; in other words, recruiting is not local or territorial, but national; a young man born at Marseilles may be sent, for example, to Dunkirk.

The recruiting of the reserves and the territorial army is always regional, with a view to rapidity of mobilization.

*Special engagements.*—Men more than 18 and less than 32 years of age, who are neither married nor widowers with children, may, on condition that they have never been condemned by the courts, engage to serve for four or five years. Re-engagements, having the great advantage of strengthening the staff of under officers, are encouraged by premiums and by higher pay. The ex-under officers re-engaged have the right also to pensions in proportion and to civil employments.

*Special enlistments, and postponement of service.*—Young men who contract to serve for more than three years may join before the age of 20 under certain conditions, and those who are students or engaged in some industrial, agricultural, or commercial exploitation may obtain, upon the advice of the council of revision, a postponement of service, renewable in some cases until the age of 25.

*National colleges.*—Young men admitted to the entrance examinations in certain national schools—the Normal Superior College, the Central College of Arts and Manufactures, the School of Forestry, the School of Bridges and Highways, and the School of Mines—may receive there a special military training, and are prepared for the grade of sub-lieutenant of reserves. If they

pass the necessary examinations for this grade, they need serve only one year as soldiers and may complete their time as officers. Young men admitted to the Military School of Saint-Cyr or the Polytechnique School of Engineers must themselves pass a year in barracks. All young Frenchmen are subject to this common rule.

In the barracks the soldiers receive a course of thorough physical training, in addition to which is complete instruction in the whole duty of the soldier, both theoretical and practical.

*Divisions of service.*—The term of service in the ranks of the first line, or “active” army, is, as has been said, three years, and the men join at the age of 20. The soldier completing this time then belongs to the reserve for eleven years; after which he passes to the “territorial” army for seven years; finally completing his service with seven years in the “territorial” reserve. Men of the reserve of the active army are called up for training and maneuvers twice in their period of reserve service, for four weeks on each occasion. The men of the “territorial” army have only one training of two weeks, and those of the “territorial” reserve no periodical training.

*Mobilization.*—Owing to the length of the reserve service the number of reservists per battalion is very large (2,000 or more). On mobilization, therefore, the reserve not only brings its unit to war strength, but every battalion and regiment forms a corresponding reserve unit, and there is still a certain surplus left for the dépôt. In peace time the troops on the eastern frontier have a considerably higher establishment than the remainder. The mobilized strength of a normal army corps would be nearly 33,000 combatants. The strength of a cavalry division of six regiments would be about 4,700 combatants.

*Strength of the Metropolitan and Colonial Armies of France.*—The Metropolitan Army has 736,164 men in France, and 82,368 men in Algeria and Tunis—making a total of 818,532 men.

The Colonial Army has 28,000 men in France, and 59,000 men in the French colonies—making a total of 87,000 men. The general total, therefore on a normal footing is about 900,000.

#### GERMAN SYSTEM

*Compulsory universal service.*—The whole of the German military system is dominated by the principle of universal service according to which every male subject is liable to military service from his 17th to his 45th year. Service actually begins at 20.

*Exemptions.*—The number of exemptions depends upon the budget granted to the army for the period concerned. The budget has never allowed a full application of the principle in times of peace. Those afflicted with physical defects, however slight, are certain of exemption, also only sons indispensable to their family, and usually theological students. All classes of

offenders against the law are excluded from service while under court suspension of their civil honor.

*Types of recruits.*—From the standpoint of military training the men of the ranks are divided into two groups, those who have completed an education equal roughly to our high-school course, i.e., through the seventh year of the Gymnasium or Realschule, and those who have not.

*Regular recruits.*—The latter must serve two years with the colors if enlisted with the infantry, three years if with the cavalry or horse artillery. These years are spent in severe military drill. The men are housed in the government barracks, are clothed and fed and allowed a small pay of about 6 cents a day. Small maneuvers are frequently held, but every fall a grand maneuver of eight weeks under the most complete war conditions possible is engaged in. Aside from the physical drill schools are conducted for the men by the lieutenants to give instruction in the most elementary military science, history and geography.

*Reserve.*—After the two or three years with the colors the men are assigned to the reserve for five or four years. During this term they are called upon to take part in two grand fall maneuvers of eight weeks each.

*Landwehr, first ban.*—For the next five years they are attached to the first ban of the Landwehr, during which time they undergo two trainings of from one to two weeks each. The cavalry receives no additional training after leaving the reserve.

*Second ban.*—After five years with the first ban the men are enrolled with the second ban of the Landwehr up to the completion of the 39th year; but no training is demanded during this time.

*Landsturm.*—After this up to 45 they compose the first ban of the Landsturm. The second ban of the Landsturm is made up of untrained men between the ages of 39 and 45. The Landsturm receives no training and is the last to be called out in time of war, and then only provided the war is a defensive one.

The actual training of the ordinary private then consists of two full years with the colors, twice eight weeks with the reserve, and twice one to two weeks during the next five years with the first ban of the Landwehr.

*Noncommissioned officers.*—In times of peace promotions from the ranks are made only to all ranks of noncommissioned officers, ranging from the lance-corporal to the sergeant-major. Rarely more than the first promotion is made during the first two years with the colors. Those who have completed the two years with an honorable record have the option of remaining with the colors as corporals. Upon completion of twelve years of honorable service the state provides to retiring noncommissioned officers employment in its civil service followed by old age pensions.

*One-year volunteers.*—Those who have completed the so-called high-school education mentioned above may enter the army as one-year volunteers. This shortens the service with the colors by one year and exempts from most

barrack duty. In return, volunteers must supply their own lodging, board, and uniforms. Though the training in most respects is identical with that of the ordinary private, due allowance is made for the higher intellect of this class. Promotion to lance-corporal is made on the basis of record at the end of the first half-year and to corporal after the fall maneuvers. Such corporals then have the option of serving in the very next grand maneuvers, at the end of which, if their record is still favorable, they are admitted to an examination on the basis of which they are recommended to their local corps of officers for promotion to lieutenants of the reserve. In time of war this class furnishes the bulk of officers for the reserve and the Landwehr. It is interesting to note that a very large percentage of one-year volunteers choose to serve during their first year at the university with a regiment stationed in a university town. Thus they manage to satisfy not only the exacting military requirements and the requirements of the first university year, which may be made very light, but also the rather heavy duties imposed upon the first year men by the fraternities at a German university. The ratio of the one-year volunteer to the ordinary private seems to be as high as 1 to 25.

*Ersatz.*—All able-bodied men who have not been accepted by the recruiting officers are assigned to the "Ersatz Reserve," a substitute reserve, to which they belong up to the end of the 30th year. After that up to 45 they are enrolled in the second ban of the Landsturm. These men are drafted and trained in time of war. With an especially favorable army budget they sometimes receive short training in times of peace. This body is variously estimated, the lowest figure being about half a million able-bodied men.

*Officers. Types of applications.*—Those who seek regular commissions in the army either enter a cadet school at a very early age, usually at 10 or 12, or join the ranks as "avantagours" after having passed the one-year volunteer examination or the university matriculation examination, or, in many cases, as late as after one or two years at the university.

*Cadet schools.*—The training at the cadet schools, of which there are eleven, is severe and under an excellent staff of instructors, but is not very broad. It is strictly a professional schooling. Military drill and the rudiments of military science are carefully ground into the pupils, and mathematics, drawing, history and geography are taught from a military standpoint. Much emphasis is also put upon Latin and the principal modern languages. At these schools the sons of deceased or needy army officers or other servants of the State are maintained wholly at the expense of the government. Others pay a sum of less than \$300 a year. Upon graduation after a seven-year course the cadet is appointed to serve as ensign with the colors.

*War schools.*—After a year of such service the brighter men are sent to the Kriegsschule, war school, while the rest are made to spend an extra year with the colors. To this school are also sent the "avantagours" after having served one, rarely two, years with the colors as volunteers. Here the higher branches of military science are taught and the command of modern languages



strengthened. The course is for thirty-five weeks only and all the expenses are defrayed by the State. After graduation and upon examination candidates are appointed lieutenants and assigned to some regiment.

*Selected cadets.*—Cadets who have especially distinguished themselves at the cadet schools are exempted from service with the colors. Instead they remain at the school an extra year ("Selecta"), during which they receive instruction similar to that at the war school and are then admitted to an examination entitling them to a lieutenant's commission. "Avantageurs" who have spent at least one year at the university also need not attend the war school. A six-months course of study for the second half of their year with the colors is outlined for them to prepare them for the lieutenant's examination.

*Promotion.*—Promotion is extremely slow if made simply upon completion of the term of service in each rank prescribed by the code. Each fall maneuver, however, gives the ambitious young officer a chance to distinguish himself before his superiors. At regular intervals special problems as tests of intellectual efficiency are assigned to all officers up to the rank of captain, the solution of which are sent to the officers of the General Staff and often made the bases of promotion.

*War academy.*—In addition to this, young officers have the option of applying for admission to the war academy at Berlin. The examination required for admission is very severe. The school is conducted by the General Staff, the Kaiser himself taking a very active part in its management. The instruction centers about the theory and practice of military strategy and tactics, the principal purpose of the school seemingly being the discovery of those most highly gifted along these lines. The average man is generally dismissed after a year or two and only the most promising candidate retained for the full three-year course. The graduates are considered likely candidates for positions on the General Staff, in the war ministry of the State, or for all the higher commands in the army.

*General staff.*—For a time at least the successful graduate of the war academy is appointed to the General Staff. This body, which has complete control over the army and is responsible to the Kaiser alone (for there is no imperial war ministry in Germany), differs from similar organizations in other countries in that it continually changes its constituency. Wholly at the discretion of the Chief of Staff officers are chosen and retained for shorter or longer periods, ranging from one to fifteen years or longer.

*Functions.*—The duties of the General Staff are assigned to different departments, and consist principally in—

- (1) "Procuring the fullest obtainable information about the organization and the changes occurring in all the armies of the world;
- (2) "Preparations of every kind to keep the army in a permanent state of readiness for war;

(3) "Perfecting the means of transportation for the army in the event of war, especially the railroad lines of strategical importance."

There are also departments for topographical surveys of the empire, for military history, geography and the like.

#### JAPANESE SYSTEM

*Compulsory universal service.*—Service in the army or navy is universal and compulsory. Liability commences at the age of 17 and extends to the age of 40, but actual service begins at 20.

*Divisions of service.*—All physically capable of bearing arms are divided into two classes, the "fit" and the "absolutely fit."

*Geneki.*—The number necessary for the first line or active army, called the *Geneki*, are taken solely from the absolutely fit. Service in the ranks is two years for the infantry, three in all other arms and either four (or five) years and four months in the reserve. Reservists are called out twice for training during their reserve service, for sixty days on each occasion.

*Kobi.*—After completing seven years and four months in the first line, including its reserve, men are transferred to the second line, called *Kobi*. Service in the *Kobi* is for ten years, with two trainings of sixty days each in the whole period.

*Kokumin.*—At the end of their *Kobi* service the men are in their 38th year and then pass into the *Kokumin*, which is the territorial or home defense army. In this they serve two years and eight months, to complete their total service of twenty years.

*Hoju.*—The reserve for making good the waste of war is called *Hoju*. It is composed of the balance of the absolutely fit recruits not required for the first line, and of as many of those classed as fit as may be required to make up a certain fixed number. They all serve in the *Hoju* for seven years and four months, during which they have a first training of 90 days and two subsequent trainings of 60 days each. After completion of this period they are passed to the *Kobi* in which they serve for ten years.

*Regional organization of army.*—The Japanese Islands are divided into military districts corresponding to the divisions of the army and the district is the unit of administration as well as of territorial command. Each division is supplied with recruits from its own district, except the Guards, whose infantry recruits are selected from the whole country.

*Strength of army.*—No returns of the peace strength of the active Japanese army are published.

#### ENGLISH SYSTEM

*Voluntary enlistment.*—Service in both the Regular and the Territorial army is by voluntary enlistment.

*Regular army.*—On a peace footing the Regular Army is composed of the permanently embodied troops, the Army Reserve, and the Special Reserve.

Service in the permanently embodied portion of the Regular Army and the Army Reserve is for twelve years, with permission to extend to twenty-one years in certain circumstances. Of the original twelve years, from three to nine are spent "with the colours," and the remainder of the time in the Army Reserve. Enlistment is possible between the ages of 18 and 25. The average service of infantry is seven years "with the colours" and five in the Reserve.

*Expansion for war.*—On mobilization for war the commands are raised to war strength from the Army Reserve, and, to a small extent, from the Special Reserve.

A large part of the Regular Army serves in the overseas dominions of the Empire, in addition to local forces known as the "Indian Army" and the forces of other dominions.

*Special Reserves.*—The Special Reserve was created in 1907 out of the militia, and is available for service abroad in time of war. Its officers are for the most part non-professional. The units are attached to permanent depots, and the enlistment term is six years. Recruits undergo, generally, five months' preliminary training, and the trained men are called annually for three weeks, with six days of rifle practice in addition for infantry.

*Territorial army.*—The Territorial Army is primarily for home defense, with enlistment age-limits of 17 to 35 years. The enlistment term is four years. The requirements for training are two weeks in camp and a number of drills varied for the different arms. Unless exempted, the soldier absenting himself from camp is liable to a penalty of 5 pounds. With the exception of certain of the generals and staff all officers are non-professional.

*Administration.*—The land forces are administered by an Army Council, composed of the Secretary of State for War and the heads of the six departments in the War Office. The Territorial Army is under County direction, the War Office maintaining general control of expenditures.

*Regular officers.*—Officers are commissioned by Royal appointment after education prescribed: for the artillery and engineers in the Royal Military Academy; for the cavalry and infantry in the Royal Military College, and for the Staff in the Staff College. The Officers' Training Corps, in two divisions representing the universities and the public schools, provides officers for the Special Reserve and the Territorial Army.

*Size.*—Effectives, reported as of January 1, 1914, were as follows: Regular Army, 156,000; Reserve Army, 147,000; Special Reserve, 63,000; Territorial Army, 252,000; British Army in India, 78,500.